Lastly, the Member complained that the officers of the Agricultural Department did not frequently visit the interior parts of the country. He, therefore, requested that they might be directed to visit the several *pakuthis* and advise the ryots on improved methods of cultivation. He also prayed for the village roads in the taluk being improved.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

52. Agricultural needs of the Neyyattinkara taluk.

Mr. S. V. E. A. Manikkam Chettiyar (Member, Neyyattinkara taluk) prefaced his remarks by observing that the prosperity of a country depended on the degree of agricultural improvement to which it had attained. The population of Neyyattinkara was 1,78,703, the chief occupation of the people being agriculture. There were no facilities for trade or industries. Formerly, the taluk was a rich one from a mercantile point of view because of the importance of Puvar and Vizhinjam which trading vessels used to touch. But now the only industry of the taluk was agriculture. According to his estimate, there were 641 *elas* in the taluk, suitable for cultivation with an area of about 1,19,005 acres. Of that area, *punja* lands covered 14,819 acres, garden lands 91,079 acres, *tharisu* 8,377 acres, and *poram bokes* 4,729 acres. The total revenue from the taluk was Rs. 1,12,468. The Member pointed out that there were about 1,200 tanks in the taluk which were all rain-fed. But they had become silted up and useless. If they had been repaired and put in order, they could be used to store rain water and would then irrigate the lands which at present were lying fallow. The cultivation of the *tharisu* area meant an annual increase of Rs. 12,000 to the revenue, besides addition to the country's production. It was entirely owing to want of water that the *tharisu* lands could not be cultivated. He did not ask for the tanks being taken in hand all at once. The more important of the tanks in each *ela* might be taken up first and then the smaller ones. The ryots were prepared to raise from among themselves half the cost of the expenditure required, the other half being met from State funds, as he was sure that the expenditure by Government would be more than covered by the additional revenue in the shape of assessment. But if the Government so desired, the people would be prepared to meet the whole cost. He made that statement, because he was authorised by his constituents to place that matter before Government. There was, the Member continued, a large area of *punja* lands in the taluk; yet, the output of paddy was not sufficient and a large quantity was being imported. The importation of the country's staple food grains was considerably hampered by the absence of shipping facilities in the State. If, as suggested by the Member, the *tharisu* lands could be brought under the plough, the people on his side would not have to depend on outside paddy. In Kottukal, there was an *ela* with 5,000 and odd *paras* of land. On account of the present silted condition of the tanks, 3,000 and odd *paras* were not being cultivated and there were several breaches in the various big tanks which had not been attended to for years. In conclusion, the Member prayed that the works referred to by him might be carried out by Government.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

53. Need for State aid in respect of Agriculture in the Chirayinkil taluk.

Mr. G. Velayudha Kurup (Member, Chirayinkil taluk) said that more than 85 per cent of the people of the taluk depended entirely upon agriculture for their livelihood and that there were not sufficient facilities for cultivation in the taluk at present. There were more than 20,000 acres of wet lands which were cultivated twice in the year. The assessment fixed on the lands in the taluk was also high when compared with the rates obtaining in the neighbouring taluks. The result was that, with the failure of crops which occurred frequently, the taluk was getting impoverished. In former days the Government had afforded facilities for cultivation in the taluk. Each *ela* was provided with a tank known as 'Cherakulam.' There

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